

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended, and claim 18 has been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by SU, U.S. Patent 5,713,800. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10, 11 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by LO, U.S. Patent 5,303,922. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over SU. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over LO. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 are characterized in that a golf club head includes a body, a striking plate, and positioning protrusions adapted to connect the striking plate to the body in the welding step. By contract, SU fails to disclose teeth 25 of a striking surface 20 used to connect to a composite body 30 in the welding step. Similarly, LO fails to disclose projections 11, 12 of a striking plate 10 used to connect to a head portion 20 in the welding step. In fact, the Examiner should not consider both of the

teeth 25 of SU and the projections of LO to be consistent with the positioning protrusions as claimed in the present invention.

It is important to note that none of the references utilized by the Examiner teaches or suggests a golf club head having deformable protrusions to engage a body with a striking plate in preparing for welding.

As for newly presented claim 18, it is also characterized in that a golf club head includes a body, a striking plate, and positioning protrusions to define a gap between the body and the striking plate. It is further characterized in that the gap is filled with braze welding material for braze welding.

In consideration of the teeth 25 of SU and the projections of LO only for the engaging step, there is no reasonable expectation of success for modification in the welding step. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art could not possibly, in the absence of hindsight, have conceived of using one of the teeth 25 of SU and the projections of LO to achieve such a positioning protrusion of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 10 and 18, as well as their dependent claims, are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

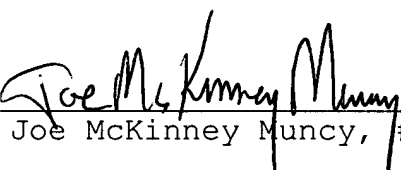
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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